Co-ordination Committee on Agricultural Development and Policy

1024. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Co-ordination Committee has been constituted to focus on agricultural development and policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have identified the key areas that require fresh policy initiatives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) An Agriculture Coordination Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, to evolve a systematic approach to policy formulation on issues pertaining to agriculture and to promote inter-sectoral and inter-departmental coordination in planning and implementation. The tasks assigned to the Committee are as follows:

(i) Identify key areas that require fresh policy initiatives, particularly those of an inter-sectoral nature.

(ii) Outline the follow-up action that needs to be taken to implement identified policy initiatives.

(iii) Identify institutional mechanism to implement policies and programmes.

(iv) Monitor key policy initiatives.

(v) To oversee and coordinate the integrated implementation of those recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers that are accepted by the Government.

(c) and (d) The major areas for thrust in the agricultural sector identified by the Government include:

- Stepping up public investment in the sector in a significant manner, and according highest priority to irrigation for investment.
- nursing back to health the rural cooperative credit system.

* doubling the flow of rural credit within three years.
* easing the burden of debt and high interest rates on farm loans.
* making more effective crop and livestock insurance schemes.
* introducing special programmes for dryland farming in the arid and semi-arid regions.
* taking up watershed and wasteland development programmes on a massive scale.
* ensuring adequate protection to the farmers from imports.
* ensuring fair and remunerative prices to farmers.

National Policy on Farmers

1025. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers has suggested Government to formulate a National Policy on Farmers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Commission had also suggested Government to focus more on the economic well being of the farmers feeding the nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission on Farmers has *inter-alia* recommended a revised Draft National Policy for farmers in its Fifth and Final Report submitted to the Government. The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Making Patwari Halka as an unit under NAIS

†1026. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.